



THE GUARDIAN

Vol. XV No. 6

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

February 2014

We made it! The first month of the year is now behind us. We can look back and meditate on how well we spent the first month of 2014 and how faithful we were to our brand new resolutions. Boy, did the time go fast! But looking back at our schedule here at St. Joseph Seminary, we can see just how chock-full of events it was. To start out the month we had the blessing of Epiphany water. Shortly after that was the Epiphany party which included all the seminary inhabitants along with Mrs. Gallagher, Mary Antonia and the Sisters who live in the convent here. A few days afterwards, Fr. Benedict surprised us with a skiing trip to Silver Mountain which, for some of the seminarians, was a first-time experience. As usual, we all had a great time and everyone returned safe but tired. After that we resumed our studies with renewed vigor and, needless to say, we are all looking forward to the next skiing trip.

Another activity was to dig a grave for a departed parishioner. The frozen ground made the task all the more meritorious and we went to it with a will. Following that was the annual priests' meetings at Mt. St. Michael, after which the priests and His Excellency Bishop Pivarunas came to St. Joseph Seminary for dinner and some games. This was a memorable event and a tradition which everyone enjoys once a year.

With the Christmas season over, and now at the end of another semester, we buckle down and prepare to study hard for the next big tests. We are very grateful for the prayers of all of our families, friends and benefactors and hope that they will continue to pray for

us and the religious here at the seminary. We are indebted to you and will always remember you in our prayers. Your friends in Christ, the seminarians.

The gathering of the holy ones

by Dominic Pulliam, gr. 10

Here at St. Joseph Seminary we have the pleasure each year to entertain the priests with dinner when they come for their annual meeting. It was a real privilege. I was able to talk with so many priests that I haven't seen for a long time or never met before. Being a talkative person, I chatted with most of the priests including Fr. Bernard, OSB, from Ontario, Canada, Fr. Gregory, who is stationed at Mater Dei Seminary, and Fr. Bernard Welp of Mt. St. Michael.

Before dinner we prayed the Rosary. After this, well, it was dinner time! We had grilled salmon, mashed potatoes that just melted in your mouth, salad which brightened the taste buds, and vegetables that just made you want more. Everything was delicious. But you are probably wondering, "What did they have for dessert?" Well if you insist, we had the best chocolate cake ever. It was so delicious that you could almost eat all of it. The chocolate

February calendar

- 2 — Purification BVM feastday; Candlemas ceremonies
- 3 — Feast of St. Blaise; blessing of throats
- 11 — Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes; procession
- 21 — Ski trip
- 27 — Mid-quarter

frosting was just too creamy and mouth-watering and the cake was just right—not too dry but not too soggy.

After dinner we sang *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, which was a lot of fun. After this we gathered around the piano and sang a few hymns. For the song *We Three Kings* we had three soloists: Fr. Casimir as Melchior, Mr. Dominic Davis as Balthazar and myself as Gaspar, which was very fun.

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Fr. Casimir played the piano as we all sang some hymns.

The gathering of the holy ones

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After this we played a long game of “Spoons” at which I won a prize. We had two groups playing at different tables. Our table was one of stealth. Their table was one of “Grab as loud as you can.” This made both tables very interesting. After this we, the seminarians, showed the priests the movies which we made recently. This made the priests laugh so much. After this it was time for night prayers. So this was our very entertaining night with a great group of priests.

Contemplation of death

by Vincent Prado, gr. 10

About mid-January, one of our parishioners passed away. Since this particular person had wished to be buried in our cemetery, it was our job, as minor seminarians, to dig the grave. While this task was being accomplished, it brought my attention to the topic of death, the topic for my article this month.

If I were to die at this very moment, where would my soul end up? Heaven? Hell? Purgatory? This is a question which we should ask ourselves often, but which we fail to do. It is simply human nature to forget about death and think we will live forever. But what is one lifetime in light of eternity? It is easy to forget this inevitable happening because we all must still live our lives. We have priorities here on earth. But sometimes we get overly-enticed by the luxuries and pleasures of this life that we give no thought to the next. If we place death in our thoughts as we do the sunrise and sunset, as an inevitable thing, then we will no doubt lead better Catholic lives.

Death can be a fearful thought. Human nature, again, makes it so. But why should we fear death if we are in the state of sanctifying grace. Rich people, such as actors and singers, shun the thought of death because they are afraid of losing all their worldly belongings. But we are not made for this world, dear reader! We are made for eternity. We are made for God. So if we remain in the state of sanctifying grace, we will welcome death as just a bridge to heaven, in order to be with God forever and ever, for all eternity.

An unusual P.E. period

by Jordan Hartman, gr. 11

There we were, pushing, shoving, pulling with all our might. But the large hunk of metal refused to move more than a few feet with each exhausting effort. Luckily, there was a substantial coating of ice and snow over our path, making it a little easier to slide the huge

object toward its destination. What were we doing? Good question. I found out a little after I started to help our crew that this hunk of metal would be used to fix the backboard of our basketball hoop.

It was a frosty afternoon, and the sun shone brightly behind an impregnable wall of clouds. To facilitate our work, we used several short logs and some thin planks of plywood. The short logs, which we called “rollers,” were placed under the front of the hunk of metal after it had been lifted slightly. Then, we placed the long planks of plywood, which we called “sliders”, in front of the propped-up piece of metal. Together, the “rollers” and “sliders” made it possible to pull and push the metal monster forward in increments of about three feet before we had to redo the process again. It was a long job.

But one always has to look on the bright side of things. So, I imagined that this process was almost like a reenactment of Calvary, although we were going down from Mount Calvary instead of up. But it was still a struggle, as we all know it was for Christ. Indeed, a couple of us fell while pushing and pulling, just as Christ fell. But He fell because of the weight of the Cross and that of our sins, and we fell mostly because of the ice. And the reason for our struggle was a lot different from His reason. Plus, He had many people pressing Him onward with cruelty while we only had one: our P.E. teacher. And he wasn’t *that* cruel. So, I guess it wasn’t very much like Our Lord’s Passion. After all, nothing in this world can compare with His sufferings.

However, the next morning when we woke up, we were so tired from pulling that huge chunk of metal around that it felt as though we were resurrected from the dead, just as Our Lord was. But He resurrected in three days, not one. Okay, I’ll stop making terrible analogies. But I have heard that it is always a wholesome thing to meditate on something every day. It is also necessary to get the most good out of every day that you can. In this way, you too can turn your labors into sanctification.



The view from the top of the mountain is one of the benefits of our ski trips.



This job was a lot harder than it looks!



The school boys pitched in with the seminarians to haul an old piece of metal down to the shop.



The annual visit of the priests to the seminary is a highlight of our year.



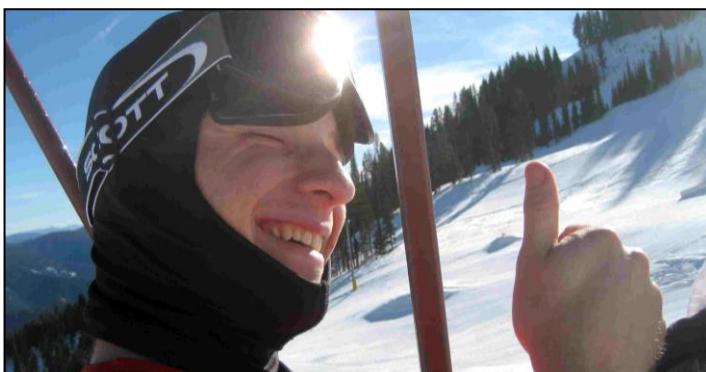
Jordan is learning to play the flute in his spare time.



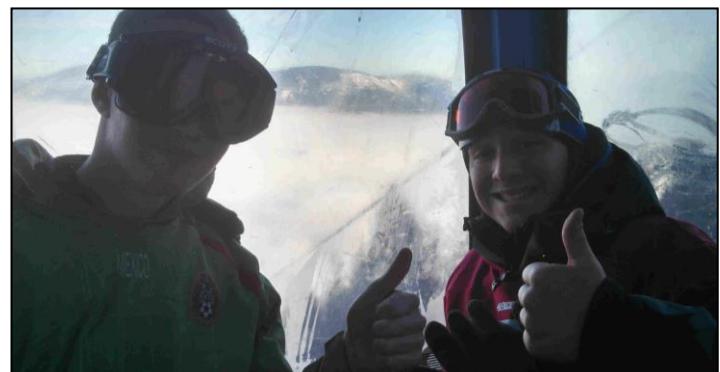
We helped Frater Anthony install a new backboard in the gym.



Fr. Benedict can never seem to get away for long from his desk and computer.



The weather was perfect and the conditions excellent for our skiing outing.



We ride the gondola up the mountain and then back down afterwards.

Skiing, one of the joys of life

by Byron Ugolini, gr. 8

As you probably know from my title, we have been skiing in the past month. Well to be exact, we have gone twice. We went to Silver Mountain Resort in Kellogg, Idaho. For my first time skiing, I didn't do so bad.

At Silver Mountain there are three peaks with many skiing trails. The first peak, which the gondola takes you up to, doesn't really have a name; the other peak at 6,300 ft. is called Kellogg Peak, there is one more but I forgot the name.

Some of the ski runs that I went on were rather hard for me being only a beginner, so that means I fell on my face a couple hundred thousand times. I did not feel it until early the next morning, not so much in the face but mostly in the hips from turning.

The first time we went skiing I spent the entire time doing nothing but easy runs with Frater and Vincent, which became boring after awhile. The second time I went with Dominic and Mr. Davis, and we spent most of the time on Kellogg Peak doing hard runs. In a way, it was really trying something new. Now, I am looking forward to the next time.

The “in between” month

February is an unusual month in many respects. Of course it is the shortest month of the year, even in those leap years when an extra day is added. But even from a liturgical standpoint, this month is unusual, especially in years like this in which Lent doesn't begin until early March. It is a sort of “in between” month — in between the Christmas season and Lent.

We also see that there are fewer feastdays in February. There are the important feasts of the Purification of Our Lady on February 2nd, Our Lady of Lourdes on the 11th, the Chair of St. Peter at Antioch on the 22nd, and the apostle St. Mathias on the 24th. There are feasts of some other saints as well, but there are also many *ferias*. When Lent comes early, these ferial days would occur within Lent, each containing its own proper Mass and office.

On ferial days outside Lent, the Mass of the previous Sunday is offered. In addition, these ferial days provide the priest the opportunity to offer a votive Mass or a Requiem Mass, if his intention is for a departed soul. You can imagine

Seminary Support Club

If you are not yet a member of the Seminary Support Club and would like to become a member, you may write to the seminary at the address below. Members pledge to pray for the success of the seminary and, if able, to send a regular financial contribution for its support.

Do You Have a Vocation?

If you are a young man of high school age who has a vocation, then St. Joseph Seminary may be the place for you. Our four-year course of studies offers the regular high school curriculum, with an emphasis on Latin, theology, choir and foreign language. A well-rounded program of daily Mass, prayer and sports complements our academic schedule. For more information, write to the rector of St. Joseph Seminary at the address below.

how much a priest appreciates the opportunity from time to time to satisfy his devotion by offering one of the beautiful votive Masses that are found in the Roman Missal.

One more difference with February is that there is no Church-sanctioned theme for this month. Most other months of the year provide us with a theme, such as that of Our Blessed Mother in May or the Sacred Heart in June, but none is assigned to February. Many of the faithful choose to honor the Sacred Passion of Our Lord during this month, as we approach the season of Lent and begin to meditate more earnestly on His many sufferings for us. May we all profit from this month, as we conclude the Christmas season and look forward to the important season of Lent.

We thank you for your donations and prayers for our seminary. Please continue to pray for our seminarians and that more young men will follow the call of Our Lord: “Come, follow Me.” May God bless you and your loved ones.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

The Guardian is published monthly for the enjoyment of our benefactors and for the family members of our seminarians. This newsletter is free upon request.

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